

**Statement of PPL Montana
Before the Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee
Of the Montana House of Representatives
In Support of House Bill No. 59
January 12, 2011**

**David Hoffman, Director, External Affairs
208 N. Montana Avenue, Ste. 204
Helena, Montana 59601
(406) 422-1091**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I stand in support of HB 59 and would like to thank Rep. Belcourt and many others for their hard work and innovation in putting this bill together.

This bill supports and strengthens the renewable portfolio by providing a non-intermittent stable supply of power that needs no expensive load-following product; and it supports business decisions to make significant investments in Montana.

PPL Montana is making a significant upgrade investment at the Rainbow plant near Great Falls with the new plant coming on-line in 2012—an investment expected to be nearly \$240 million. This project involves construction over a nearly three-year period of a new power house, increasing production at that plant by about 24 megawatts without any significant change in the operation of the river. The new power house will also contain a water turbine that is much more “fish-friendly” than the existing eight smaller turbines.

This bill provides an incentive to all hydro owners in Montana in determining whether or not to make these significant investments. Under this bill, such investments would provide good-paying jobs, stimulate economic development, and bring stability to the renewable supply.

I urge your do-pass vote. Thank you.